Shimoga to Arasalu has been improved and re-aligned for a metre gauge railway, as it is likely to form the first section of the projected Shimoga-Bhatkal railway on that gauge.

Thadasa-Hebbe Tramway.—The survey of a branch tram line from Thadasa, a station on the Tarikere Narasimharajapura tramway, to Hebbe, a distance of 12 miles, was completed and the project estimate is under preparation.

Mysore-Kakankote Tramway.—A survey for a tramway from Mysore to Kakankote forest has been started and will be completed before the end of December 1916.

Extension of the Tarikere-Narasimharajapura Tramway to Sringeri.—A reconnaissance survey for extending the Tarikere-Narasimharajapura tramway to Koppa and Sringeri was taken up during the year and the detailed survey will be started early in November next.

Geology and Mining.

52. One hundred mining leases and licenses were current during the year as against 142 in the previous year. Notwithstanding the war and the consequent difficulties with regard to staff, transport and supplies, the work on the Kolar Gold Fields has been more or less fully maintained and the output of gold has been kept up almost at its normal level. Manganese and chrome have suffered owing to high freights and transport difficulties but are now showing signs of recovery. Prospecting work and collection of corundum have been seriously interfered with owing to shortage of funds for such work and limitation of demand. In several cases Government have shown concessions in regard to the payment of rents, etc., where work has had to be suspended owing to causes arising out of the war.

The total number of mining accidents reported during the year 1915 was 282 as against 234 during the previous year. Of these accidents, 57 were fatal involving the death of 70 persons, 219 were serious and 6 were non-mining. The total number of explosive licenses granted during the year was 301 against 274 issued during 1914, an increase of 27 licenses. The rules for the storage and transport of explosives were revised during the year.

6.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Muzrai.

53. Two events of religious significance which were out of the ordinary, took place during the year, namely, the

Panchalinga Darsana at Talkad and the *Kumbhabhisheka* at Sringeri. His Highness the Maharaja graced both these occasions with his presence.

The buildings of 83 muzrai institutions were repaired at a cost of Rs. 90,775 including the State grant of Rs. 9,473. The presiding high priest of the Sri Ahobila Matha having passed away, the succession of Bramhasri Vidwan Ayyamacharyar was recognised by the Government. There has been a change of *gurus* also at the Jain Matha in Sravanabelagola. The properties of the Uttaradi Matha which had been under Government management for many years past were restored to the Matha, the Sri Swamigalu having come to a satisfactory understanding with the holders of the decrees against the Matha.

Government Press.

54. During the year 1915-16 the outturn of work in the Central Press, Bangalore was 58,373 pages composed of various sizes, which converted into pica foolscap folio aggregated 46,716 against 43,975 of the previous year. The number of impressions printed and books bound was 20,416,228 and 1,347,134 against 18,987,585 and 1,446,907 respectively in the previous year. The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 1,23,873-6-9 against Rs. 1,12,096-4-7. The outturn of work in the Branch Press at Mysore was 4,567 pages composed, 1,095,440 impressions printed and 35,373 books bound as against 3,006, 1,101,845 and 26,510 respectively during the previous year. The cost of establishment was Rs. 5,979-15-7 as against Rs. 6,540-7-7.

55. The receipts under the head "Gazette Office" during the year amounted to Rs. 2,882-7-6 as against Rs. 3,214-14-0 in the year before and the number of subscribers was 658. A technical school for printing was opened in the Press premises at Bangalore. The number of books and periodicals registered by the Superintendent of the Government Press in his capacity of Registrar of Authorised Publications, was 139 as against 124 in the previous year. Copyright was secured in the case of 50 books, the same number as in the year before.

Stationery.

56. The year opened with a balance of stock valued at Rs. 59,629-11-5 to which was added new stock amounting to Rs. 1,68,729-1-4, making a total of Rs. 2,28,358-12-9. The supplies to various departments amounted to Rs. 1,57,747-6-7 leaving a balance of stock of Rs. 70,611-6-2 at the end of the year. Indian purchases rose from Rs. 27,816-10-5 to Rs. 77,526-5-6, while English purchases decreased from Rs. 94,660-0-5 to Rs. 69,028-8-10.

Government Gardens.

57. The Government House gardens in Mysore were placed under the control of the department. A restaurant has been opened in the Lal-Bagh at Bangalore and several other improvements have been made. The half-yearly shows held at the Lal-Bagh were successful. In spite of the war which has prevented the import of seed at moderate prices, considerable business was done at the seed depot, the value of seed sold being Rs. 5,539 as against Rs. 5,487 in the previous year. The horticulture class which was held during the year contained 18 students, 16 of whom were in receipt of stipends. An income of Rs. 3,647 was realised from the Sunkal Farm, while the cost of establishment amounted to Rs. 2,719. There was an increase in the number of enquiries received from the public, and cultural advice was freely given.

Hill Stations.

58. The hill station of Nandi has been further improved and a telephone connection has been provided from Nandi railway station to the top of the hill. There were 240 visitors to the hill during the year or 100 more than in the previous year.

The development of the Chamundi Hill in Mysore is also under the consideration of Government. The improvement of the road leading to the top and plantation work have begun and estimates are being prepared for other improvement works required on the top of the hill.

Archæology.

59. A re-survey has been made of parts of Tumkur, Kadur and Bangalore Districts and over 300 new records including a large number of copper plates and interesting *sannads* in the possession of the Sringeri Mutt were brought to light. The revision of the Mysore Gazetteer is making fair progress. Two hundred and eighty-nine coins and a number of manuscripts were also examined.

The printing of the Roman portion of the Sravana Belagola volume has been completed; the translation of the Kannada texts has made fair progress and the illustrations are under preparation. The work in connection with the general index is approaching completion.

Meteorology.

60. The observatories in the State were maintained in efficient condition. There were 226 rain-gauge stations or one more than in the previous year, of which 200 or 88·5 per cent were inspected as against 82 per cent in 1914-15.

61. The museum was visited by 454,524 persons as against 315,099 in the previous year. About 200 specimens were added to the collection. *Government Museum.*

7.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

62. Municipal councils were authorised to sanction refunds of municipal revenue. Definite instructions were laid down for the guidance of municipal councillors for properly auditing municipal accounts. In non-regulation municipalities, the levy of cart tax under the Mohatarfa rules was extended to springed carriages and motor vehicles. With a view to accumulate funds for the execution of the water supply of the Tumkur and Tiptur towns, the municipal bodies have invested Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000 respectively out of the funds at their disposal as fixed deposits in the Mysore Bank. *Municipalities.*

63. The amount available for expenditure under this head including the opening balance of Rs. 3,52,002 was Rs. 5,29,427 of which a sum of Rs. 1,31,773 was spent, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,97,654 at the end of the year. *Local Funds General.*

64. In view of the increase in the number of works which the Trust Board was required to undertake in accordance with the sanctioned programme, the limit of annual expenditure was raised from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees. The grant for the year 1915-16 was specially supplemented by Rs. 34,000. One hundred and ninety-one properties were acquired during the year. A few model houses were built departmentally on a commercial basis and some of them were sold to the public. *Mysore City Improvement Trust Board.*

M. VISVESVARAYA,
Dewan of Mysore.